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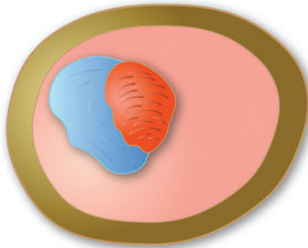


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# Requiem for the ‘vulnerable plaque’

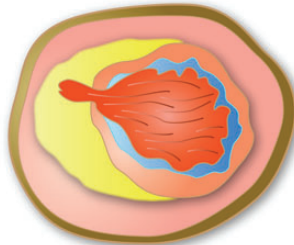
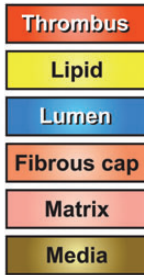
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### Plaque erosion

Lipid poor  
 Proteoglycan and glycosaminoglycan rich  
 Non-fibrillar collagen breakdown  
 Few inflammatory cells  
 Endothelial cell apoptosis  
 Secondary neutrophil involvement  
 Female predominance  
 High triglycerides



### Plaque rupture

Lipid rich  
 Collagen poor, thin fibrous cap  
 Interstitial collagen breakdown  
 Abundant inflammation  
 Smooth muscle cell apoptosis  
 Macrophage predominance  
 Male predominance  
 High LDL